

Application No. 10/087,348
Amendment dated July 22, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April. 22, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 10-15, and 21-25. The Examiner has objected to Claims 5-9 and 16-20. New Claim 26 has been added by the current Amendment.

Claim Rejections – U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 10-15 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Konig (U.S. Patent No. 4,991,282). Independent Claims 1 and 15 both call for a method of manufacturing an implement including the steps of providing a working device at a second facility and connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility. Claims 3, 4, 10-14 depend from Claim 1 while Claims 21-25 depend from Claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit Konig '282 does not disclose or suggest a method of manufacturing an implement including the steps of providing a working device at a second facility and connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility as called for in Independent Claims 1 and 15 and Claims 3, 4, 10-14 and 21-25 depending therefrom.

Konig '282 discloses a process for assembling vehicles in which an engine is connected through a transmission to the vehicle wheels. The engine is part of a drive unit subassembly which may also include a compressor for an air conditioning system or similar auxiliary equipment. U.S. Patent No. 4,991,282, column 4, lines 32-42. Without conceding that the "compressor for an air conditioning system or similar auxiliary equipment" of Konig '282 is the working device called for in Independent Claims 1 and 15, Konig '282 does not disclose or suggest provision of the compressor at a second facility where the compressor is connected to the base of the implement which base is provided by an engine connected to a transmission as called for in Independent Claims 1 and 15. To the contrary, Konig '282 discloses a drive unit subassembly which includes an engine and, in one embodiment, a compressor. Because Konig

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'282 does not disclose or suggest a method of manufacturing an implement in which a working device is provided at a second facility and connected to the base of the implement at the second facility, as called for in Independent Claims 1 and 15 of the present application, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 1 and 15 and Claims 3, 4, 10-14 and 21-25 depending therefrom.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 5-9 and 16-20.

New Claims

Applicants have added new dependent Claim 26.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the current application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of fee, Applicant hereby petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, BAKER & DANIELS.

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If any questions concerning this application should arise, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 219/424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

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MS/pas

Enclosure(s):

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ, NO. 44,326
NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE



SIGNATURE

July 22, 2003
DATE